

## The Kansas City Journal.

Established 1854.

THE JOURNAL COMPANY, Publishers.

Rialto Building, Ninth and Grand Avenues.

Subscription Rates: By carrier, Daily and Sunday, 10 cents per week; 65 cents per month.

By mail, Daily and Sunday, one month, 65 cents; three months, \$1.95; six months, \$3.50; one year, \$6.50.

Single copies, 2 cents; Daily, 5 cents Sunday, 10 cents.

The Kansas City Weekly Journal.

Published Thursdays, 10 cents per year.

Telephone: Business Office, 250; Editorial Rooms, 82; Kansas City, Kas., W. 23.

Foreign Advertising: The J. E. Van Doren Special Agency, with offices 1230 Madison Avenue, New York, sole agent for foreign advertising.

Entered at the Postoffice at Kansas City, Missouri, as second class matter.

Weather Forecast for Sunday.

Washington, Oct. 30.—For Oklahoma and Indian Territory: Probably fair Sunday.

For Missouri: Generally fair; probably threatening weather in the southern portion in the morning; south to west winds; probably cooler Sunday night.

For Kansas: Fair Sunday; light variable winds; cooler in eastern portions.

THE NATIONAL THANKSGIVING.

Although the country has not had so much cause for gratitude in a good many years, President McKinley's Thanksgiving proclamation is as modest in tone as it could well be made.

In fact, not so long as some of Mr. Cleveland's proclamations issued while the country was in the depths of adversity and gloom.

Among the causes for gratitude mentioned by the president is the fact that "the conditions of labor have been improved."

A statement that will be endorsed by millions of workmen who, a few months ago, were idle and needy, but now have regular employment and living wages.

The president also mentions that "the rewards of the husbandman have been increased," and the smiling faces of thousands of thousands of prosperous farmers in Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, Iowa and all other agricultural states testify that no mistake was made on this point.

"Respect for law and order have been strengthened," says the president.

"We are free institutions, and all sections of our beloved country brought into closer bonds of fraternal regard and generous co-operation." There is the more cause for thanksgiving by every patriotic citizen because these last mentioned blessings have been secured in spite of strenuous efforts of demagogues and agitators to excite class hatred and alienate the people from their cherished institutions and sever and destroy the bonds of fraternal regard.

Certainly the country can sincerely and heartily accept the president's invitation and give thanks for the prosperity which a beneficent Providence has brought upon it in such generous volume, not forgetting to return very warm thanks for the administration which has been the agent through which these good times have largely come.

THE OUTLOOK IN NEW YORK.

Mr. Platt is a good fighter. There is no surrender in him. He fights pluckily until the last ballot is cast. He realizes that an enthusiastic, hopeful army can fight better than a despondent one, consequently he makes rather tall claims in a loud voice.

His recent declaration, for instance, that General Tracy "is elected already" was simply a little campaign bluster to jolly up his forces.

The truth is that the New York contest is an exceedingly hard and uncertain one, and nobody knows this better than Platt himself.

There is good reason to believe that Tracy will gain less from the scattering of the George vote than either Van Wank or Low, although Mr. Platt complacently announces that it makes his election all the more certain.

As a Republican newspaper, The Journal would like to believe that Mr. Platt's statements are true, but it finds no substantial ground for such confident assumptions.

General Tracy may be victorious on Tuesday—he certainly is in the race; but neither he nor any other candidate has the kind of sure thing Mr. Platt claims for him.

The Republican party has not a normal majority in Greater New York, and with the Republican vote divided between two candidates, and the Democratic vote uniting upon one, it looks as if the chances were in favor of the latter.

At the same time, General Tracy's personal popularity, his splendid campaign, and the fact that he represents the party which has restored prosperity, may suffice to give him a plurality—possibly a large one.

PORT ARTHUR IMPROVEMENTS.

The action of the directors of the Kansas City, Pittsburg &amp; Gulf railway in voting \$500,000 for permanent improvements at Port Arthur will have a tendency to reaffirm the liberal policy of this company in extending and strengthening its facilities and resources.

The work undertaken in projecting this short line to the Gulf and in establishing a seaport where little else than a natural harbor marked the site, was a task so stupendous that the general public did not share the confidence of the projectors as to the early realization of the great scheme.

But everything undertaken by this enterprising company has succeeded, and everything has progressed with remarkable rapidity, even in times when investors and builders were most cautious.

The road has been built from Kansas City to tide water in an amazingly short time, and the announcement that a large sum of money is to be spent on the immediate improvements at Port Arthur, including the erection of a great dry dock, is calculated to give encouragement to those who have watched the enterprise with pride or some more direct interest.

Here in Kansas City, the Gulf road and its associated projects, including the building of a city at Port Arthur, are regarded with the kindest interest. Whatever promotes its welfare strengthens Kansas City.

AS TO SHODDY.

It will have to be admitted on all sides that the present administration at Washington is not a "shoddy" one. The prosperity goods that the "advance agent" is filling his orders with are the genuine article. Millions of happy citizens are ready to attest that fact. So far, no misrepresentations have been discovered; the goods are of prime quality and correspond exactly with those promised by the "runner."

But there is another sense in which it is not a shoddy administration. In fact, it is an anti-shoddy administration. Shoddy has almost retired from business since it came in. The Dingley bill imposes such

a high duty on shoddy—25 cents a pound—that the importations have fallen off to an insignificant quantity. In 1892, when the McKinley law was operative, only 243,000 pounds of shoddy were imported.

In the last year of the Wilson bill 49,000,000 pounds were brought in from abroad.

The American Wool and Cotton Reporter, in a recent issue, says on this subject: "It is a notorious fact that our markets were flooded in 1895 and 1896 with 'foreign goods.' Goods were made in England and rushed into this country, which, frankly speaking, were a disgrace to humanity. It is a wonder that the refuse from which the yarn was spun held together during the process. It is pretty certain that it did not hold together long after it was on the wearers' backs."

The worst of it is that the wearers who are thus cheated will be told that the goods which fall to pieces on their backs are American goods, when they are foreign shoddy. The effect of the new tariff will be to give the American people sound woolen goods. Clothing may cost a trifle more, but it will be well worth the difference.

SOME NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR SPECULATION.

There are few things upon this earth that tend more to disturb the normal conditions of life than does a "bucket shop" in a small town. Every man who wins a dollar tells his neighbor about it, carefully concealing the losses, and thus the disease spreads. It seems such an easy way to make money and the risk seems so small, that the unwary one is ever being caught.

There is nothing lamentable in the fact that the small dealer is generally a loser in the end, except so far as it is a deprivation to the innocent ones who depend upon him, which is generally the case, but the great misfortune is the fact that it unmakes him to such an extent that he is no longer fit to meet the conditions of his life. In truth, it is better for him to lose and lose fast, for the sooner will he quit it and go to work. This, of course, is said with the hope and the understanding that he has no trust funds on hand to begin to use after his own money has gone.

Thereby hangs the tale of many a tragedy. This is a particularly good year for the spread of this kind of gambling. The bountiful crops and prosperous trade have put money into empty pockets, where it ought to remain for a time, at least, and the increasing markets are furnishing the temptation. Until the last year or two it has been necessary for those in the smaller towns who desired to speculate in this way to send their orders to the larger cities. Under such conditions the evil did not become very prevalent, for gambling like drinking in that respect—the temptation must be close at hand. But now nearly all the larger country seat towns have a "branch," if some of the city concerns, and local brokers transact the business with great thrift and dispatch. In Kansas the business has assumed such proportions that at this time private wires are being extended from this city so that the demands of the plains may have all the advantages of a city "exchange." There are some things about it which seem very funny and some which seem very sad. Hereafter when a "sidewalk farmer" has shown interest in the market and incidentally mentioned that he had a few thousand bushels of wheat, it has been the general supposition that he had it in his granaries, but all that has changed now—he is liable to be carrying it in his vest pocket in the form of a broker's receipt.

The sad thing about all this is its very perceptible effect upon the community. In a large city what one man does or thinks is of little moment, for each person lives to himself or his own, but in these smaller towns every change of countenance or of method of business is observed and becomes the subject of comment. When such a change is produced by gambling in wheat, the whole community soon knows it and is talking about it. Those who keep out of it have a way of envying the winner and scolding the loser that is not conducive to good morals. But the most damaging moral effect comes from the fact that this kind of speculation is indulged in by men who are above any suspicion of other wrong doing. They would represent an insult to an invitation to play at cards for money, but they seem to consider this sort of thing perfectly legitimate. One who was asked what his wife thought of his proceedings replied that it was all right when he won, but that she scolded when he lost. In this way the ideal moral standard is lowered and no greater curse can come to a person or a community. It is bad enough to do wrong, but it is infinitely worse to do wrong and say that it is right. The courts and legislatures are gradually stamping the word crime upon all kinds of option dealing, which will define its moral status even if it should fail to stop the evil. Some people never discover that a thing is wrong until there is a law against it.

SECRETARY WILSON'S REPORT.

There are some pertinent and significant suggestions in the report of Secretary Wilson, of the department of agriculture, which has just been submitted to the president.

Mr. Wilson has a proper conception of the scope and possibilities of his department, and believes that everything possible should be done for the extension of its facilities and the promotion of its usefulness.

The recommendation that American agents be placed at the foreign embassies for the purpose of collecting and forwarding information of special interest and value to the agricultural department will doubtless be received with particular favor.

Such agencies would enable the farmers, stock raisers, and those dealing with agricultural products generally, to be immediately informed as to the conditions of foreign crops, to be advised of promising departures, and to be liberally supplied with various suggestive matter calculated to assist home enterprise.

The secretary wants larger appropriations for the bureau of animal industry and the bureau of plant industry, and two departments that should be given every reasonable encouragement, especially as much of the expenditure is still in the direction of important experiments. He believes that the results of experiments at the agricultural colleges should be widely published, so that all farmers who wish to avail themselves of their benefits may be able to enjoy them.

Secretary Wilson sees no reason why the United States, if our resources had been properly drawn upon and their development properly protected, should not have saved the \$300,000,000 sent abroad last year for sugar, hides, fruits, wines, animals, furs, hemp, flax, cheese, barley, beans, eggs and silk.

It is gratifying to note that Mr. Wilson regards his department as one of the first, if not the foremost, in importance among the cabinet bureaus. Why should not

This is as yet distinctly an agricultural country, and this characteristic will be dominant for a long time to come. A single idea, though seemingly insignificant in itself, may be of tremendous importance if generally applied in our vast agricultural industry. Therefore, the expenditure of money along the lines suggested by those who have made a personal and official study of the necessities and possibilities of our greatest wealth-producing farm interests must be regarded in the light of a judicious investment.

NOTES AND NOTIONS.

Rev. Mr. J. A. Curran, who was recently installed pastor of the orthodox Congregational church in North Berkeley, Cal., professed at his installation the belief that Christ had a father and a mother, just as he himself had; that the trinity means God in nature, God in Christ and God in humanity.

God the father, God the son, God the Holy Spirit, is not justice, but mercy; that the Bible is the product of men, inspired, but unequally so, and as to mortality, that perhaps only Jesus was born in Christ.

A council of Congregationalists heard this profession, and yet decided unanimously that Mr. Curran is theologically sound. If that is orthodox in California, it is an evidence of the effect of the liberalizing climate. If that is orthodoxy, we are all rapidly growing orthodox. Perhaps we are.

Rev. Dr. Edward Everett Hale distinguishes between education and instruction. The first is work, he says, "which angels might be proud to join in," the second can be as well done, often, by a good encyclopedia.

There may be in this a little injustice to the words, but the notion is a capital one, and worth the murder of a word to impress and carry it home. Education does not consist in getting the facts of a subject into the mind, but in getting the mind to work with the facts. Education is the cultivation of a sound and intelligent judgment.

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